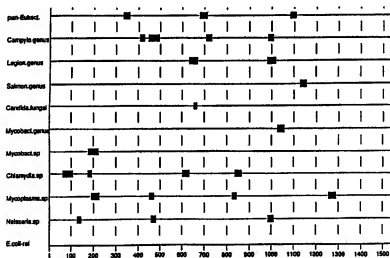




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(54) Title: NUCLEIC ACID PROBES FOR DETECTION AND/OR QUANTITATION OF NON-VIRAL ORGANISMS

**(57) Abstract**

A method for preparing probes, as well as several probes for use in qualitative or quantitative hybridization assays. The method comprises constructing an oligonucleotide that is sufficiently complementary to hybridize to a region of rRNA selected to be unique to a non-viral organism or group of non-viral organisms sought to be detected, said region of rRNA being selected by comparing one or more variable region rRNA sequences of said non-viral organism or group of non-viral organisms with one or more variable region rRNA sequences from one or more non-viral organisms sought to be distinguished. Hybridization assay probes for *Mycobacterium avium*, *Mycobacterium intracellulare*, the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*-complex bacteria, *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, *Legionella*, *Salmonella*, *Chlamydia trachomatis*, *Campylobacter*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Enterococcus*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, *E. Coli*, *Pseudomonas* group 1, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, bacteria, and fungi